

## TERMINAL EVALUATION

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Project ID:          | 3008   |
| Project Name:        | Development of the National Clearing House Mechanism, Capacity Assessment for ABS and Taxonomy in Morocco, and Updating of the NBSAP |
| Countr(ies):         | Morocco  |
| Implementing Agency: | UNEP   |

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**I. OVERVIEW .....3**

**A. Description .....3**

**B. Key Dates .....3**

**C. Disbursements .....4**

**II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES .....4**

**A. Main Terminal Evaluation Findings .....4**

**B. Stakeholder Engagement .....6**

**C. Gender Equality .....6**

**D. Knowledge Management .....6**

**III. CORE INDICATORS .....6**

**IV: CO FINANCING .....7**

**V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS .....7**

**VI. ANNEX .....7**

## I. Overview

### A. Description

Project name

Development of the National Clearing House Mechanism, Capacity Assessment for ABS and Taxonomy in Morocco, and Updating of the NBSAP

Country

Morocco

GEF ID  
3008

Implementing Agency  
UNEP

Executing Entity

Ministry of Land Planning, Water and Environment

Trust Fund  
GET

Project Type  
EA

Objective

The GEF biodiversity add-on project contains three main objectives: a) Capacity assessment for Taxonomy and revision : To carry out any additional assessment of capacity development needs required for the effective and efficient implementation of the priority objectives of the NBSAP. This is in accordance with the GEF Guidelines for Additional Funding of Biodiversity Enabling Activities (Expedited Procedures) issued in February 2000 and CoP Decisions II/7, IV/1 D, V/9 (priority), VI/5, VI/8, VI/23, VI/24 of the Conference of the Parties. b) Capacity assessment for ABS: To undertake in depth consultations on Access to Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Taxonomy as guided by the GEF in the 2000 guidelines for expedited procedures for Add on funds in the area of Biodiversity enabling activities. c) Development of a national CHM: To further develop the capacity of the CHM to improve the availability and dissemination of biodiversity-relevant information at both national and regional levels. • Update the existing databases (inventory) of contact details of organizations responsible for biodiversity management in Morocco; • Identification and creation of linkages to other existing biodiversity databases in Morocco • Compilation of a reference bibliography of biodiversity publications for Morocco, • Production of regular public awareness products, for example, newsletters, press releases, for use in raising biodiversity awareness amongst policymakers and the general public

### B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval  
6/22/2010

Agency Approval  
12/15/2010

Implementation Start  
12/15/2010

First Disbursement  
1/27/2012

Expected MTR

MTR Submission  
1/28/2026

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Actual MTR                      | Expected Completion<br>6/15/2012 |
| Actual Completion<br>12/31/2014 | Actual TE<br>11/20/2025          |
| TE Submission<br>1/28/2026      | Final Disbursement<br>2/13/2013  |

### C. Disbursements

|                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Project Financing<br>228,250.00 | Cumulative Disbursement<br>186,883.84 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

## II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

### A. Main Terminal Evaluation Findings

The project “Development of the National Clearing House Mechanism, capacity assessment for ABS and Taxonomy in Morocco” was designed to strengthen Morocco’s biodiversity information systems and implementation capacity. Its objectives included conducting a comprehensive assessment of national capacity in taxonomy an essential component of biodiversity conservation and upgrading the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), which had not kept pace with evolving strategies since its initial establishment in 1998.

To achieve these objectives, the project implemented three main activities: a taxonomy capacity assessment, national consultations on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) and biodiversity governance, and the modernization of the CHM as a centralized platform for data sharing. These efforts aimed to address critical gaps in taxonomy and ABS while improving the accessibility and reliability of biodiversity information for decision-makers and stakeholders.

Key achievements included completion of the taxonomy capacity assessment with actionable recommendations for future planning, and the upgrade of the CHM to enhance data transparency and support evidence-based decision-making. Stakeholder engagement was another notable outcome, fostering collaboration among ministries, scientific institutions, and NGOs, and ensuring that project outputs reflected national priorities and CBD obligations.

Challenges encountered included limited baseline data for certain taxonomic groups, institutional fragmentation that slowed data integration, and financial constraints affecting long-term CHM maintenance. These issues underscored the need for stronger resource commitments and improved coordination mechanisms.

Overall, the project contributed to strengthening Morocco’s technical and institutional capacity for biodiversity management. By improving information systems and fostering stakeholder collaboration, it laid the foundation for better policy formulation, CBD reporting, and integration of biodiversity considerations into national planning processes.

### Key Activities

#### 1. Capacity Assessment for Taxonomy

- Reviewed existing and missing taxonomic and systematic information (national and overseas).
- Appointed a consultant to make recommendations for updating the NBSAP.
- Conducted a Taxonomic Needs Assessment (TNA) through surveys and stakeholder consultations.

- Finalized the TNA report with consensus on reference needs, capacity sharing, training, and data management.
- Organized expert workshops and a national workshop to validate findings.

## **2. Capacity Assessment for ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing)**

Set up an ad hoc ABS Committee under the National Committee on Biodiversity.

Organized a national workshop to address legal, institutional, and socio-economic implications.

Formed a task force to identify capacity-building needs (training and technology transfer).

Undertook a survey on the economic potential and value of genetic resources.

Compiled new information on ABS issues and produced a report for NBSAP revision.

## **3. Development of the National Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)**

- Established a national technical committee and developed TORs for CHM update.
- Identified institutions holding biodiversity information (government, NGOs, private sector).
- Conducted a workshop to analyze information needs and produced a CHM action plan.
- Developed CHM databases and the website.
- Trained personnel in CHM development and maintenance.
- Created an inventory of organizations, linked existing biodiversity databases, and compiled a reference bibliography.
- Produced public awareness materials (newsletters, press releases).
- Planned for CHM sustainability using national resources.

## **Link to Convention Obligations**

- The project fulfilled Morocco's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly Article 6 (General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use), Article 17 (Exchange of Information), and Article 18 (Technical and Scientific Cooperation).
- Activities were aligned with COP decisions such as II/7, IV/1 D, V/9, VI/5, VI/8, VI/23, and VI/24, which addressed taxonomy, capacity building, and information exchange.
- The capacity assessment for taxonomy implemented SBSTTA recommendation II/2, which called for strengthening taxonomic capacity and making taxonomic information readily available to countries of origin.
- The ABS component applied the Bonn Guidelines adopted under COP VI and VII, ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.
- The development of the CHM supported Morocco's obligation to establish a national Clearing House Mechanism and link it to the global CBD CHM, as encouraged under Article 17 and 18.
- Overall, the project contributed to updating the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and improving Morocco's ability to meet its CBD reporting and implementation requirements.

## B. Stakeholder Engagement

The project adopted a consultative and inclusive approach, engaging a wide range of stakeholders through national workshops, task forces, and technical committees.

### Stakeholders included:

- Government ministries (Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries, Interior, Culture, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, etc.)
- Research and academic institutions (Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II, Institut National de Recherches Agronomiques, Institut Scientifique de Rabat, universities)
- Specialized agencies (Haut-Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts, Centre National de Recherches Forestières)
- Civil society and NGOs

### Engagement was structured through:

- A Project Steering Committee headed by the GEF focal point.
- National workshops on taxonomy and ABS.
- Consultations for CHM development and sustainability planning.
- Formation of an ad hoc ABS committee under the National Committee on Biodiversity.

## C. Gender Equality

The projects incorporated gender-responsive measures by conducting gender analyses and integrating gender considerations into their design and implementation. They ensured meaningful participation of women and youth in decision-making forums, translated key informational materials into local languages to improve accessibility, and engaged women's organisations alongside other stakeholders. Gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data were included in monitoring frameworks, and training sessions strengthened the capacity of stakeholders to apply gender-sensitive tools. These efforts aimed to address underrepresentation, promote equality, and empower women as agents of change throughout the project lifecycle.

## D. Knowledge Management

The projects adopted a structured KM approach that focused on capturing, organising, and disseminating lessons learned and best practices. They developed and validated knowledge management plans and communication strategies with a gender and intercultural perspective, created dedicated project websites, and published documents and audiovisual materials showcasing experiences and outcomes. These resources were shared through newsletters, social media, and partner platforms to promote replication and scaling up. Workshops and collaborative sessions were held to co-design KM strategies, ensuring that knowledge products were accessible and relevant to diverse stakeholders.

## III. Core Indicators

## IV: Co Financing

| Sources of Co-financing      | Name of Co-financier  | Type of Co-financing | Investment Mobilized | Anticipated at CEO(\$) | Materialized at MTR(\$) | Materialized at TE(\$) |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Other                        | National Contribution   |                      |                      | 20,000.00              |                         |                        |
| Recipient Country Government | Moroccan Government<br>Ministry of Energy, Mines,<br>Water and Environment /<br>Department of Environment | In-kind              |                      |                        |                         | 18,750.00              |
| <b>Total Co-financing</b>    |   |                      |                      | <b>20,000.00</b>       | <b>0.00</b>             | <b>18,750.00</b>       |

### Comments

This is an enabling activity for which co-financing is not mandatory

## V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

| PIF | CEO Endorsement/Approval | MTR | TE  |
|-----|--------------------------|-----|-----|
|     |                          |     | Low |

### Measures to address identified risks and impacts

As this project was an enabling activity, major physical environmental risks are relatively low. However, there are still potential social or economic negative effects, e.g. exclusion of stakeholders, conflicts over land and resource rights, misrepresentation of communities, etc. There were no significant unintended negative impacts or environmental harm from developing strategy or reports.

## VI. ANNEX

---

Uploaded Document

| Document Category | Prefix                   | Title                            |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| M and E Document  | Terminal Evaluation (TE) | Simplified_OCR_Template_EAs_3008 |